Food Processing Industries in Scheduled Areas of States

4834. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the potential for setting up of Food Processing Industries in the scheduled areas of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) the steps being taken for localising such units in the scheduled Areas;

(c) whether the infrastructure required for the purpose is available in such areas; and

(d) the types of Food Processing Industries feasible in such areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (d). While no comprehensive studies have been conducted to evaluate the potential for setting up of Food Processing Industries in the scheduled areas of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, it is felt that potentials for setting up of such industries do exist in some of these area. The kind of industries which could be set up in some of these areas include pork processing units, mini rice mills, fruit and vegetable processing units etc. The potentials for setting up of Food Processing Industries is dependent upon the availability of requisite infrastructure, adequate raw materials and market for such products etc. This Ministry is implementing various development plan schemes which are directed towards the overall growth of the Food Processing Sector. The State Government and their agencies are to formulate proposals for seeking assistance under the plan schemes after evaluating the requirements of each area. In the plan schemes for providing assistance to State Government undertakings and cooperatives for establishing or enlarging food, fruit and vegetable processing facilities, this Ministry has provided for special liberal norms of financing in the case of tribal areas. Apart from this Ministry, other Government agencies like the National Horticultural Boards, National Co-operative Developmental Corporation etc. are also providing assistance for development of horticulture and also Food Processing Industries in different States.

Production of Honey

4835. SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for the promotion of production of honey;

(b) whether the areas like Rayalasema in Andhra Pradesh particularly Anantapur district which is drought prone, will have any special consideration; and

(c) the area on which honey production is maximum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (c). The steps taken by KVIC for the promotion and production of honey are: (i) introduction of Apis Mellifera Bees (ii) subsidy on bees boxes (iii) training to beekeeper including women/tribal people so as to equip them with better techniques of been management. As the secretion of nector in the flowering plant is affected adversely in the draught-prone area, bee-keeping industry does not have much scope in Anantpur District which is draught-prone. In so far as the KVI sector is concerned, honey production is maximum in the States of Kerala, Tamilnadu and Karnataka.